

Bob Dylan Can You Please Crawl Out Your Window?
Columbia 45 RPM (4-43477 ZSP 112316)
by Peter Stone Brown
10 Stars

I'm pretty sure it was some night in September 1965, "Positively 4th Street" was riding high on the charts and I was sitting in my bedroom pretending to do my homework when the phone rang, and a friend from school excitedly said, "Listen to this, they announced "Positively 4th Street," but it's not, it's some song about crawling out a window and he put the phone to his radio speaker, so I could hear it. Sometime before the end of the year, a Bob Dylan single, "Can You Please Crawl Out Your Window?" finally appeared at my local record store. I bought it on the spot. I knew it wasn't the version I heard over the phone a few months before. Instead had this crazy intro and this stop after each verse, and then at the very end Dylan quoted the first line of "Positively 4th Street" as if the whole thing was a joke. I didn't care, it was a new Bob Dylan single and I gave it plenty of play while trying to figure out who the genocide fools and friends were and wondering what were the Littleton women?

Sometime later it would be revealed that this song ended Bob Dylan's friendship with Phil Ochs (for a while anyway), and much, much later it would be revealed that the musicians on the track were Dylan's backing band, The Hawks with Bobby Gregg, drummer on *Highway 61 Revisited*, and way later than that, a friend would discover that it may have been one of Dylan's first religious songs though a bunch of people would argue about that. Still, those few notes Robbie Robertson plays between each verse at the end are pretty damn explosive.

As for what I heard on the radio over the phone that night, I finally heard it about five years later on a bootleg called *Stealin'*.